

Appl. No. 10/085,298
Amendment dated January 18, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 2, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office action dated November 2, 2005. In that action the Examiner: 1) rejected claims 1-2, 5, 8, 10 and 18 as allegedly anticipated by Mustafa (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. 2003/0028786); 2) rejected claims 3-4 as allegedly obvious over Mustafa and Cronic (U.S. Pat. Appl. Pub. 2003/0149670); 3) rejected claims 6-7, 9, 11-12, 15, 19-20 and 22 as allegedly obvious over Mustafa and Hsu (U.S. Pat. No. 5,812,662); 4) rejected claims 13 and 21 as allegedly obvious over Mustafa, Hsu and a serial EEPROM data sheet from Microchip; 5) rejected claim 16 as allegedly obvious over Mustafa and Vanderbeek (U.S. Pat. No. 6,816,795); 6) rejected claim 17 as allegedly obvious over Mustafa, Vanderbeek and a microcontroller user's manual from Freescale Semiconductor.

With this Response, Applicants amend claim 8, cancel claims 1-7 and 16-22, and present new claim 62. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

The Office action of November 2, 2005 indicates the acceptance of a substitute specification dated October 17, 2005. While Applicants did file a Response to Office action on October 17, 2005, no substitute specification was submitted.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

With this Response, Applicants amend paragraph [0023] to correct a grammatical shortcoming. No new matter is added.

III. CLAIM CANCELLATIONS

With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 1-7 and 16-22 without prejudice to later asserting those claims, such as in a continuation application.

IV. CLAIM REJECTIONS

A. Claim 8

Claim 8 stands rejected as allegedly anticipated by Mustafa. Applicants amend claim 8 to correct a grammatical shortcoming and to remove limitations not needed to define over the cited art.

Mustafa is directed to a system and method for software anti-piracy licensing and distribution. (Mustafa Title). In particular, Mustafa discloses a computer system that

Appl. No. 10/085,298
Amendment dated January 18, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 2, 2005

couples to a licensing system by way of a dongle, Web server or LAN connection. (Mustafa Paragraph [0006]). Software products in the Mustafa system must obtain permission (a credit) to execute or install on the computer system. (*Id.*).

Claim 8, by contrast, specifically recites "a microcontroller; a first non-volatile storage device coupled to the microcontroller, the first non-volatile storage device storing a plurality of programs executable by the microcontroller, the plurality of programs comprising at least a program to perform flow calculations, a program to perform PLC functions, and a program to perform RTU functions;..." Applicants respectfully submit that Mustafa does not expressly or inherently teach such a system. In particular, Mustafa fails to teach "a first non-volatile storage device ... comprising at least a program to perform flow calculations, a program to perform PLC functions, and a program to perform RTU functions."

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8, and all claims which depend from claim 8 (claims 9-15 and 62), should be allowed.

V. CONCLUSION

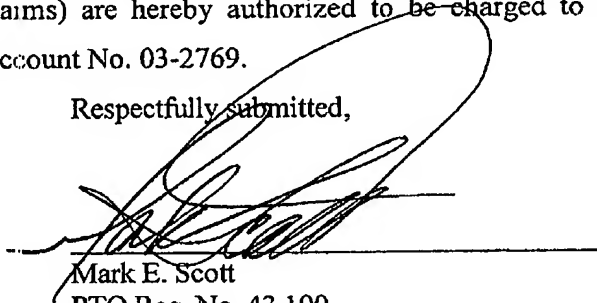
In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Appl. No. 10/085,298
Amendment dated January 18, 2006
Response to Office Action of November 2, 2005

It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to the deposit account of Conley Rose, PC, Account No. 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Scott
PTO Reg. No. 43,100
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(512) 391-1900 (Phone)
(512) 320-9182 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS